



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HARRISON-CRAWFORD STATE FOREST



The Division of Forestry Mission:

To promote and practice good forest stewardship on Indiana's public land and private lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.

SEPTEMBER
2010

Issue 1



OPEN DOOR DAY

While Harrison-Crawford welcomes any visitor during business hours into the office, we invite the public that may have questions or want to visit to come on a special day on September 29, 2010 between 10:00 am and 6:30 pm EST. The staff will be on hand to answer questions and discuss what may be on your mind. Light refreshments will be provided. To find our door, go on SR 62 west of Corydon or east of Leavenworth to SR 462. Go 3 miles to the entrance gatehouse for the O'Bannon Woods State Park. Proceed for about another 1200 feet, turn left for another 890 feet, turn left in front of the white building. Our office is at the far end. We hope to see you then.

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Timber Sales



In Fiscal Year 2009-10, the proceeds from timber sales in Harrison-Crawford State Forest returned to the 2 counties \$30,348.38 (Harrison) and \$1,223.25 (Crawford). The State forest has 9,317 acres in Crawford County and 14,838 acres in Harrison. Timber sale locations are planned using current state of need for management as the first criteria. Accessibility is another important consideration. Our timber stands vary widely in productivity, mostly due to past use practices before state ownership, but natural soil quality also plays into the equation. As result, it is hard to provide a good 'average' span of time between harvests, but a general rule of thumb is 20-30 years between well managed harvests for this property. There are several timber sales planned for this upcoming year. In Crawford County, Compartment 3, tract 3 (off Mansfield Rd.); Compartment 13, tract 9 (off SR 62); and possibly Compartment 9, tracts 5, 6, and 7 (off Shafer Ridge Road). In Harrison County, Compartment 29, tracts 8 and 9 (along Cold Friday Road); Compartment 30, tract 10 (SE of Cold Friday cemetery); Compartment 21, tract 4 (off Old Forest Road); Compartment 19, tracts 7 and 8 (off SR 462); and Compartment 6, tract 6 (off Moberly Road). Most of these harvests will be managed, using the Division of Forestry's standard group selection method, which concentrates on individual tree removal of mature, stressed, low value, thinning, and occasional regeneration openings of 1-5 acres. One harvest will be removing old field red cedar to release and favor the abundant oak seedlings and saplings currently found, but suppressed underneath the cedar.

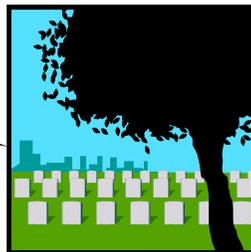
Storage Building Project at Harrison-Crawford State Forest



As a result of the creation of the O'Bannon Woods State Park (Formerly Wyandotte Woods State Recreation Area), the Harrison-Crawford State Forest was left without adequate storage buildings for equipment and shop area. This past year the State Forester, Jack Seifert, initiated efforts to provide us with a much needed facility. Construction has started on this 7-bay building. Since the current economy is struggling, we are doing the construction in house as much as possible to save money. The down side to this is that it will take longer to complete than perhaps we would like. Clark State Forest has provided construction expertise and labor, both with their personnel and inmate labor from the Henryville Correctional Facility. Poplar logs cut from the building site will be sawn at Branchville Correctional Facility into siding for the building. At this time, the foundation has been completed. Hopefully, by the next newsletter, the building will be finished.

Cemetery Rehab

Since the Harrison-Crawford State Forest is made up of a large number of previously small individual ownerships, it is not surprising that the acquisitions would produce a few cemeteries. Some of the burials contain individuals from foreign lands born in the 1700s. There are no fewer than 4 cemeteries on the State Forest. In the past year or so, 3 of these cemeteries (Martin-Hogan-Long, Greenbrier, and Paris) have received some much needed attention. Last summer, property staff and our Y.H.C.C. personnel started this work. Greenbrier was cleaned up, cleaned out, weeds sprayed, and the old fence replaced with a new cedar fence. Blown down trees were carefully cut and removed. Paris was similarly cleaned up and received a cedar fence early this summer, under the supervision of the Division of Forestry's archeologist. Last, but not least, a local volunteer, Karl Schetler, and his helpers started working their magic on restoring the Martin-Hogan-Long (also known as Flint Hill and Cedar John Cunningham) cemetery by repairing damaged headstones and cleaning stones. Karl and company are a dedicated bunch and have done some amazing work on old cemeteries elsewhere in Harrison County. They will be returning to complete their work in this cemetery at a later date.



Young Hoosier Conservation Corps-YHCC

The current economic climate is one that is felt by most, if not all, Americans. In 2009, some of the Federal government's stimulus monies were allocated to the states to help provide job opportunities. The Daniels administration created the Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps (YHCC). Starting in late spring, 2009, the State hired many local young adults to work on State Forests (including Harrison-Crawford) and other IDNR properties. That year, the program lasted until October. A similar time frame is in effect this year. On this property, most of their efforts have concentrated on chemical control of the invasive plant species the Tree of Heaven and Japanese Stilt Grass. Both of these species are widespread on the Forest. The YHCC has also done much needed work on a couple cemeteries (see article elsewhere in this issue), property maintenance, and office help. We thank these young people for their efforts and hope that they gained some valuable work and life experiences that they can take with them in their lives.



Governor Recognizes Property Personnel

On May 5, 2010, property foresters Wayne Werne and Christine Martin were among 13 Forest Resource Specialists working for the Indiana State Forests recognized by Governor Mitch Daniels at the Public Service Achievement Awards ceremony in Indianapolis. Wayne and Christine's group received the Governor's Public Service Team Award. Jack Seifert, State Forester, said that this group was awarded for "meeting our timber management goals, with a small core of professional foresters and did this remarkable feat without additional costs." Mr. Seifert added that they continue to meet certification standards for sound resource management.

Forest Insect and Disease Problems

One of the aspects of managing a forest is to monitor it for major insect or disease issues. If there is found to be something widespread or epidemic affecting the trees, many times there is nothing one can do to stop it. However, sometimes active management can help to mitigate the effects of such insect or disease issues.



One of the most recent insect problems that have been in the news for the last several years is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Many people already know about this threat due to its high profile coverage. EAB is a beetle that is not native to North America, but was introduced from overseas, which qualifies it as an invasive exotic pest. Now that it is here, it affects only ash trees, but with a high rate of mortality. The adult beetle will lay its eggs in ash trees, and when they hatch, the larvae will eat the cambium under the bark and this activity will girdle the tree and prevent it from moving water and nutrients up and down the tree. The result is that all infested ash trees will die.

Once this pest has established itself in an area (usually from transporting infested firewood or logs with bark still on), it is impossible to eradicate, and the ash trees in that area are doomed. Consequently, many private landowners, as well as the state forest system, have been removing a large percentage of the ash trees in areas marked for timber sales. This is because EAB has been spreading throughout much of Indiana, and unless a natural control can be found for the beetle, it is only a matter of time before most of our ash will die. Therefore, one can modify their management to intentionally cut the ash out of the woods before it gets infested and dies anyway.

State of Indiana

Harrison-Crawford State Forest
7240 Old Forest Rd. SW
Corydon, IN 47112

Phone: (812) 738-7694

Fax: (812) 734-0728

Email: harrisonsf@dnr.IN.gov



We're on the web

www.in.gov/dnr

Would you prefer to receive
the newsletter by email?

Contact us at

harrisonsf@dnr.IN.gov

Harrison-Crawford State Forest Property Staff

Dwayne Sieg, Property Manager

Annette Brown, Office Manager

Wayne Werne, Resource Specialist

Christine Martin, Resource Specialist

Gary Wiseman, Laborer

Cooperative Forest Management

Mike Coggeshall, District Forester

OTHER CONTACTS:

Indiana Conservation Officers: 812-685-2499

Sheriff's Dept. 812-738-2195 or 812-338-2802

District Wildlife Biologist: 812-789-2724

The Nature Conservancy: 812-737-2087

O'Bannon Woods St. Park: 812-738-8232 or 738-8234 (Nature Center)

Wyandotte Caves are **CLOSED** during the 2010 Season.

To report a fire, call local fire department

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